

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 16259 01 OF 02 061612Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
ACDA-12 TRSE-00 IO-13 /091 W  
-----123927 061723Z /73

R 061602Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1641  
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 16259

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, SOPN  
SUBJECT: EAST GERMAN MEASURES AGAINST WEST GERMAN AND  
WEST BERLIN CORRESPONDENTS

REF: BERLIN 5516

1. THERE IS INCREASING CONCERN IN BONN ABOUT THE GDR  
EXCLUSION OF A GROWING NUMBER OF WEST GERMAN JOURNALISTS.  
ALTHOUGH THE PRESS ATTENTION TO THIS SUBJECT IS STILL  
RELATIVELY SLIGHT, WE HAVE LEARNED FROM JOURNALIST CIR-  
CLES THAT THE OPPOSITION MAY MAKE MORE OF IT IN THE FU-  
TURE. THE GOVERNMENT, FOR ITS PART, APPEARS TO BE  
ATTEMPTING TO PLAY DOWN THE ISSUE. WE HAVE NO INDICA-  
TIONS THAT IT IS NOW PUSHING HARD WITH THE GDR FOR FRE-  
ER ACCESS OF WEST BERLIN AND WEST GERMAN JOURNALISTS.

2. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS ARE  
NOW IN FORCE OR HAVE RECENTLY BEEN IMPLEMENTED:  
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PAGE 02 BONN 16259 01 OF 02 061612Z

---DETTMAR CRAMER, RIAS CORRESPONDENT AND CLOSE FRIEND  
OF SOMETIME DISSIDENT VON BERG, WAS DENIED ACCESS TO  
EAST BERLIN ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO AND HAS SINCE BEEN  
TOLD THAT IT WOULD BE FUTILE FOR HIM TO TRY TO APPLY  
AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

---PETER BENDER, A CORRESPONDENT OF THE WEST BERLIN RADIO SFB, HAS ALSO BEEN DENIED ACCESS. (THIS HAS NOT YET COME OUT IN PUBLIC BUT CRAMER TELLS US IT IS SO.)

---LUTZ LEHMANN, ARD CORRESPONDENT HAS BEEN DIRECTED BY THE GDU NOT TO PROCEED WITH PLANNED TV FILM INTERVIEWS WITH SOME GDR DISSIDENT WRITERS (REFTEL).

---GUENTER JAUCH, OF BAVARIAN RADIO, WAS DENIED PERMISSION (IN SPITE OF AN EARLIER APPROVAL) TO DO A PROGRAM ABOUT A VISIT OF AN FRG SOCCER TEAM TO PLAY A GDR TEAM. NO REASONS WERE GIVEN BY THE GDR.

3. CRAMER HAS TOLD US THAT THE ACTIONS AGAINST HIM AND BENDER ARE TIED TO THEIR PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE ALLEGED "MANIFESTO" AUTHOR, VON BERG. CRAMER BELIEVES THE RUSSIANS ARE BEHIND THIS. HE SAYS VON BERG IS AGAIN BACK AT HIS TEACHING POSITION AND THAT THE RUSSIANS DO NOT WANT HIM AT THIS POINT TO HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH WESTERN JOURNALISTS. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS IS FOR VON BERG'S PROTECTION OR NOT.

4. WEST GERMAN OFFICIALS AND JOURNALISTS WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE LATTER TWO CASES BELIEVE THAT THEY REFLECT EFFORTS BY THE GDR REGIME INTER ALIA TO IN-

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PAGE 03 BONN 16259 01 OF 02 061612Z

FLUENCE WEST GERMAN REPORTING BY SELECTIVE CENSORSHIP OF SPECIFIC MATERIAL THAT THEY FIND DISAGREEABLE. THE WESTERN OFFICIALS AND JOURNALISTS FEAR THAT THIS TACTIC

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PAGE 01 BONN 16259 02 OF 02 061613Z  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 16259

WILL BE EFFECTIVE BECAUSE JOURNALISTS WILL LEARN AFTER A WHILE WHAT THEY CAN AND CANNOT PRINT. ONE OF THEM NOTED WRYLY THAT THIS WAS A LITTLE REMINISCENT OF THE MOSCOW ACTION AGAINST WHITNEY AND PINTER, AND ASSUMED THAT THE EAST GERMANS WERE AGAIN IMITATING THEIR SENIOR FRIENDS.

5. THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT IS STILL HAVING TROUBLE DEALING WITH THESE PHENOMENA. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT HAS INTERVENED ON OCCASION TO TRY TO RESTORE CRAMER'S RIGHT TO VISIT EAST BERLIN, BUT THAT THE GDR REJECTED THE EFFORTS. IN THE LEHMANN CASE, BRAEUTIGAM OF THE CHANCELLERY PROTESTED (WITHOUT SUCCESS) TO GDR DCM BAUMGAERTL ON AUGUST 22, CALLING THE GDR'S ACTION A VIOLATION OF THE FRG/GDR EXCHANGE OF LETTERS OF NOVEMBER 8, 1972, REGARDING EXCHANGES OF JOURNALISTS. IN OTHER CASES, THE FRG EITHER HAS OR PRESUMABLY WILL EXPRESS ITS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BONN 16259 02 OF 02 061613Z

CONCERN. HOWEVER, THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION IS BOUND TO ARGUE THAT THESE EFFORTS ARE INADEQUATE, AN ARGUMENT WHICH WILL BE DIFFICULT TO REFUTE BECAUSE IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. THE ISSUE WILL PROBABLY NOT GENERATE A GREAT DEAL OF PUBLIC EXCITEMENT BUT IT IS WORRISOME TO OPINION LEADERS AND PARTICULARLY TO JOURNALISTIC CIRCLES.

6. THE LEHMANN CASE WAS DISCUSSED IN THE BONN GROUP ON AUGUST 29, AT WHICH TIME THE FRG REP (VON BRAUNMUEHL) SAID THAT THE FRG SEES A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE CASE AND THE FRG/GDR NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THAT THE GDR HAD PLAYED UP THE CASE IN AN UNNECESSARY WAY AND THAT THIS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DONE INTENTIONALLY.

7. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID FRG SPECULATION IS THAT THE MOTIVE

FOR THE GDR'S HAVING DONE THIS IS CONNECTED WITH THE  
SOVIET SUSPICION ABOUT INNER-GERMAN NEGOTIATIONS. THE  
GDR WISHES TO AVOID, VIS A VIS THE SOVIETS, THE APPEAR-  
ANCE THAT THE GDR IS PREPARED TO COMPROMISE POINTS OF  
PRINCIPLE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN MONEY FROM THE FRG. IF  
THIS SPECULATION IS CORRECT, THE FRG FEAR IS THAT THE  
CURRENT INNER-GERMAN NEGOTIATIONS WILL NOT INDUCE THE  
GDR TO MAKE CONCESSIONS IN OTHER AREAS "OF PRINCIPLE".  
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## Message Attributes

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